

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027832

FOLLOWING REPEAT PEKING 0265 ACTION STATE INFO HONG KONG MOSCOW
BERLIN JAN 28.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0265

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CH UR GE

SUBJ: PRC RELATIONS WITH WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL JANUARY 27 ON GDR AMBASSADOR
LIBERMANN, HE MADE WHAT I CONSIDERED TO BE SOME SUR-
PRISING OBJECTIVE COMMENTS ON THE FUTURE OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN CHINA AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. HE SAID
THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE GDR AND OTHER
EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPING ALONG THE LINES
OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRC AND ROMANIA AND
YUGOSLAVIA. HE EXPECTED CHINESE EFFORTS IN THIS
DIRECTION TO INCREASE AND FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
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PROGRESS TO BE MADE IN THE DOMAIN OF TRADE AND OTHER FORMS
OF EXCHANGES.

2. NEVERTHELESS, LIBERMANN SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
FOR CHINA TO EVER REALIZE ANY HOPE OF BREAKING OFF
MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT FROM THEIR CONNECTION WITH
THE SOVIET UNION. SIMILARLY, IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME

BEFORE STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY.

3. AMBASSADOR LIEBERMANN THOUGHT THAT THE CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE SHOWED THE EFFECTS OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF STRESS AND STRAIN BUT THAT THE LEADERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND BRIDGE THE DIFFICULT POST-MAO PERIOD. TENG HSIAO-PING WAS THE ONLY CHINESE LEADER, THOUGH, WHO COULD MANAGE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESENT POLICIES. NO ONE COULD REPLACE HIM.

4. UNLESS CHINA CAN BE BROUGHT TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, LIEBERMANN SAID, THE WORLD WOULD FACE REAL INSECURITY IN THE LATTER PART OF THIS CENTURY. THERE WAS AN OBLIGATION ON THE PART OF THE US AND, ULTIMATELY, ALSO ON THE SOVIET UNION, TO BRING CHINA INTO MAKING MOST CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE VIETNAM-CAMBODIA CONFLICT LIEBERMANN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS CLOSE TO THE SRV BUT THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND JUST WHAT EITHER SIDE HAS TO GAIN IN THE PRESENT STRUGGLE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CHINESE HAD FOMENTED THE WAR AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE COULD SOON BE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.
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WOODCOCK UNQUOTE VANCE

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